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HIP-INJURIES, INCLUDING HIP-JOINT DISEASE, AND FRACTURES
OF THE FEMORAL NECK, SPLINT FOR.

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I DESIRE, in connection with the exhibition of the accompanying splint, not only to call attention to its adaptability to ununited or badly-united intracapsular fractures of the femur, but also to recommend it as an exceedingly useful support in the disabilities following sprains, lacerations, twists, and dislocations (congenital or traumatic) of the coxo-femoral articulation. Of its use in hip-joint disease, I would say here that it is of the greatest advantage in non-acute cases in the first stage, and in the majority of patients during the other stages.

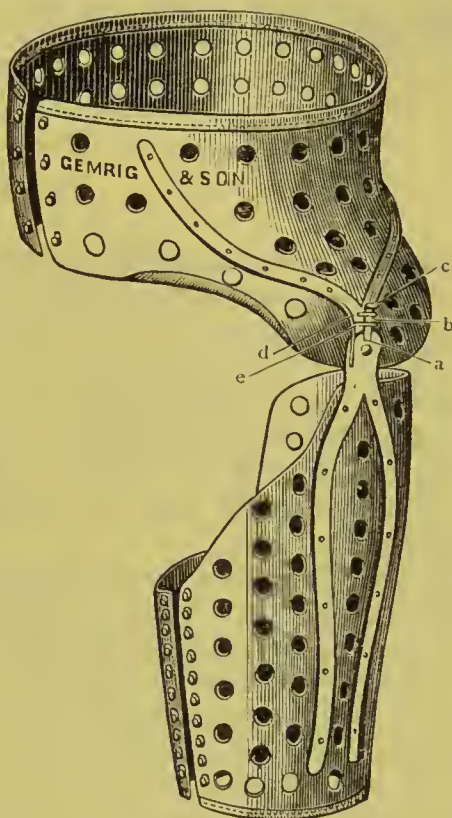
I have for several years been in the constant habit of fixing this joint in fractures of the upper portion of the thigh, and in all hip-injuries and diseases, by permanent dressings of binders' board, starch, felt, plaster of Paris, silicate of soda, etc., especially in the case of children; but the great inconvenience—in fact, the impossibility—of sitting while encased in one of these dressings, if properly applied,—*i.e.*, so as to embrace the thorax,—did not force itself upon my mind until I was obliged personally to resort to the use of such a dressing for the disability following a laceration of the ligamentum teres caused by a violent twist of the leg.

One has but to try the experiment to find that a position other than standing or lying is absolutely incompatible with comfort or the power to pursue any ordinary avocation.

I had often wished to make a joint in my hip-disease dressings, especially in adults who were obliged to attend to business, but, although familiar with the use of leather and felt for spinal dressings, it had not occurred to me to apply them to the hip until I chanced to see a leather apparatus for the relief of a paralytic trouble.

The difficulty with an ordinary jointed splint, however, was that it would not put the hip perfectly at rest; and I accordingly had Mr. Gemrig make me the steel joint which you see here, and which can be locked and unlocked at pleasure, thus rendering the hip perfectly fixed until just at the moment of sitting, when by lifting the bolt (which can be easily done through either a gentleman's or lady's clothing) a perfectly movable joint is secured.

The method of constructing this apparatus is first to make a mould, by plaster of Paris bandages, of the body as high as the



lower angle of the scapulæ behind and the point of the ensiform cartilage in front, in order to secure a firm thoracic support; thence downward, covering in the pelvic region as low posteriorly as the commencement of the internatal crease and anteriorly to the summit of the pubis; thence over hip, buttock, and thigh to a point about three inches above the knee-joint. This mould can be best taken over a light pair of bathing or other closely-fitting drawers. When thoroughly hardened, it is to be slit up, removed, and from it can be made a plaster cast which will be the exact shape of the

